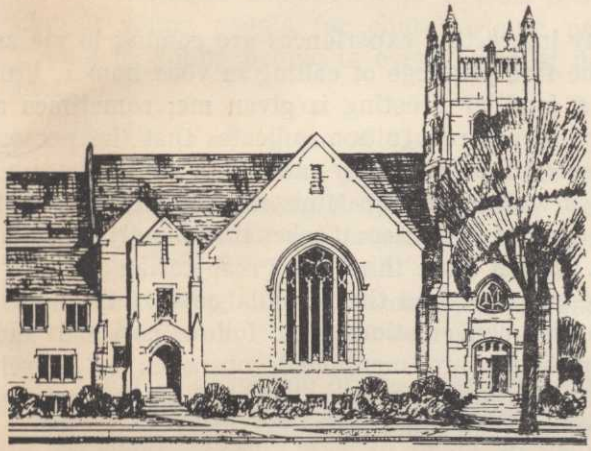

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The Church Bell

New First Presbyterian Church

Published occasionally in the interest of the Church and its work.

GARY, INDIANA

591 Monroe

November, 1951

THE CHURCH BELL APPEARS!

After months of suspension, due perhaps to the fact that every dollar of income was sorely needed to cover the cost of everything from Scotch tape to furniture and fixtures as we were putting the finishing touches on our new Educational Unit, the CHURCH BELL comes to life again and brings to you the greetings of the Church Staff. They have had a lot of fun turning it out, and we hope you will enjoy the contents. If you like the CHURCH BELL, tell **others** about it. If you have any comments or even criticisms, **tell us.** We'll try to improve each issue. We hope that finances will permit the printing of it every two months at least during the winter and spring season.

THE CHURCH STAFF

Rear Row — Walter Sickels, Asst. Custodian; John Laurie, Custodian; Harry D. Collier, Youth Director; Dr. F. W. Backemeyer, Pastor; Rev. Carl V. Brown, Parish Minister; John C. Seagard, Minister of Music

Front Row — Mrs. H. I. Seaburg, Church Secretary; Mrs. Jean Collier; Mrs. Alma Backemeyer; Mrs. Josephine Brown; Mrs. Dorothy Seagard.

THE PASTOR'S MESSAGE

It is an interesting thing to see how new personalities come into a situation, find themselves immediately, and begin effective operation of their particular responsibilities.

We have had that thoroughly demonstrated in the coming of our Director of Youth, Mr. Harry Dale Collier, and our Parish Minister, Rev. Carl V. Brown. These two gentlemen have certainly found places of eminent usefulness in our church life, and each one is growing in effectiveness with each day. With them of course are their good companions, Mrs. Collier and Mrs. Brown, who have demonstrated their interest and their spirit of joyous cooperation.

The enlarged staff does not mean that any of us will do less work than formerly. No one has, by their coming, been "relieved" of responsibilities. But we shall, together, get much more done than we could have done before. Thus the total efficiency of our staff program is assured. What is needed now is the full and effective cooperation by every member of our Church. With this added to the efficiency in administration, there is hardly any limit to be placed upon what can be accomplished.

We thank God today for these new leaders who have joined forces with us. We are holding regular staff conferences each week, and are trying to arrange our hours so that during **most** of each day some one will be at the Church, prepared to take phone calls and relay them to the proper persons. We shall do our best to do our work well, and we crave the prayers and fellowship of all our people.

Yours, for a great Church Year!

Frederick W. Backemeyer

FROM THE PARISH MINISTER

I, the Parish Minister, have been in Gary now for nearly two months. Most of the strangeness of the new situation has worn away. Now many faces are becoming familiar, some names are sticking in my memory. The possibilities and challenge of the work are appealing. I am filled with admiration as I become acquainted with this beautiful church which you, under the outstanding leadership of Dr. Backemeyer, have built. Together you have established a strong and influential institution here. A still greater future lies before you. This great church building, the remarkable friendliness of the congregation, the inspirational worshipful services, the multiplicity of appropriate organizations, all these and many more factors go to the making of "a winsome church." Yes, Gary First is destined to become a still more influential factor in the religious and cultural life of this city.

Many interesting experiences are coming to me as I have the fine privilege of calling in your homes. Frequently a familiar greeting is given me; sometimes a cold stare of non-recognition indicates that the person has not been to church lately and so has not yet become acquainted with the Parish Minister either in the pulpit or at the door. In such cases it takes the friendly formula, "I'm Mr. Brown from the First Presbyterian Church," to bridge the gap. And the formula never fails. Sometimes in the conversations that follow personal and family problems are mentioned, obstacles to church attendance are aired, to all of which I try to reply in the loving spirit of our Christ.

With genial and efficient co-laborers on the church staff to make the work happy, I look forward with eager anticipation to a joyous period of service in this part of God's Kingdom.

Faithfully yours,

Carl Victor Brown
The Parish Minister

FROM THE DIRECTOR OF YOUTH

Greetings to all of you! It seems only fair to greet all of you through this medium. So many of you have greeted and received Mrs. Collier, Topper and Bobby and myself into your Christian Church Family upon our arrival several months ago. We acknowledge with grateful hearts the warmth and kindness of your reception of us. In turn we pledge ourselves to you and your cause and endeavor to serve Christ through this member church of His body of love, devotion, affection and service.

Your young people manifest a fine spirit of friendliness and cooperation. With their enthusiasm and vigor and whatever counseling that is needed, we look forward with you to the realization of building today, in and through them, the Church of tomorrow.

Sincerely yours,

Harry D. Collier
Director of Youth

CHRISTMAS BOOK WEEK

Our Library Committee is again preparing for CHRISTMAS BOOK WEEK from November 18 to Christmas. Books will be displayed in the Fellowship Room and you may make your selection from them. This is a real service, and is greatly appreciated. Our Library Committee is keeping our own Church Library very much up-to-date with additions of new, good books.

WESTMINSTER FELLOWSHIP

Westminster Fellowship is a plan conceived by church young people for church young people, and guided by young people in every stage of its development.

The W. F. Program at First Church started this year with a Fall Retreat held overnight at Sauk Trails Camp. Fifty-five young people attended the Fall Retreat. The weekend was devoted to the theme - "Discovering God's Will for Youth." The Retreat concluded with a Candlelight Communion Service conducted by Rev. C. V. Brown.

The W. F. Program of the Church includes a wide scope in interests, services and activities. The following officers and sponsors wish to invite all young people to attend either the Junior W. F. for 7th, 8th and 9th Graders or Senior W. F. for high school young people. Our purpose as we unite in Westminster Fellowship is to become such complete disciples of Christ that we will discover God's will for our lives and do it.

Jim Christy, Moderator; Helena Cowen, Vice Moderator; Joan Buldia, Stated Clerk; Marilyn Landis, Treasurer; John Christy, Fellowship; Delores Dalton, Stewardship; Norman LaHayne, Faith and Life and Enid Malinka, Outreach. Sponsors: Mrs. E. M. Landis, Mrs. Hugh Barr. Mrs. G. C. Laubscher, Mrs. W. E. Boyden, Mr. and Mrs. H. D. Collier, and Mr. and Mrs. J. C. Seagard.

WE WENT BACK TO CHURCH

(By One Who Did)

From a recent folder of the Sunday Worship Service of Riverside Church, New York, comes this testimonial to the striking need for personal religion and a church home.

"We decided to start over. To go back even beyond courtship. Back to church. To see who went nowadays. To see if maybe there wasn't something there for us. It wasn't a conversion that we felt, but a need. We went with our eyes open, a little skeptically. We even shopped until we found a congenial congregation, a minister we would respect and enjoy listening to.

And it has been, in a sense concrete, and personal, our "salvation." We're back on steady ground again financially, physically, emotionally. There is nothing esoteric about it. We've simply injected a little Christian order and common sense into our hitherto chaotically free lives.

And whom have we met in church? A bunch of old crabs or young misfits or blind sheep? No! We have discovered people who think thoughts, read books, and can have a grand time. And the bulk of attendance is, surprisingly, among the twenty-forty group. Young couples who, like us, went on a veritable binge of personal liberty, only to find it boomeranging back, aimed at things they prized.

Control — that's one big thing the church has given us who have groped our way back. Associating with people who have learned the same lessons, gotten the same perspective, and are now reaching out toward the same strength, makes it easier.

The strength is there. A strength that is singularly the church's own. Open the doors of some church next Sunday and you'll find it, as we did.

"WE'RE GLAD WE WENT BACK TO CHURCH!"

TWO ADDED MEMORIALS

The congregation will be interested in knowing that recently two windows have been selected and purchased as memorials. Both are in the narthex, and will be designated as follows:

One window in memory of Corporal Donald K. Mitchell, who was killed in action in Korea on Nov. 30, 1950. This memorial is given by Mr. and Mrs. Nevin Mitchell, now of Grosse Isle, Michigan. Donald had been a member of this church.

The other window is given by Mr. Thomas Edwards, 400 Harrison St., in memory of his son Kenneth D. Edwards, who was killed in an accident in October, 1950. Kenneth was a student at Purdue, and had been faithful in our Church School and a member of the Church.

Memorial Designations

In connection with the above paragraph it should be said that the John Mathews Company, of Pittsburgh, had been making the bronze plates by which memorial gifts were designated. The government recently halted all manufacture of bronze articles except instruments of war. Therefore we shall have to use temporary designations until the war is over. At that time the Trustees will see that the temporary designations are replaced with bronze plates. The last bronze plate that was made for us is the one memorializing Miss Mary Cheever, which was placed on the outside wall, near the front entrance, by the Beta Phi Class of which she was a faithful member.

IS YOUR PLEDGE UP-TO-DATE?

We are nearing the closing months of the Church Year. Many of our people are faithful in keeping up their pledges, and their envelopes appear every Sunday in systematic regularity. Some few people send in their checks now and then. Others let the matter of their pledge lapse until it is difficult to catch up.

The Treasurer would urge all our members to keep pledges up-to-date just as faithfully as humanly possible. In this way we can take care of our obligations, and the Church finances will move along in a satisfactory way.

OUR CHURCH

At last we've built it!
God's house!
We've dreamed about it, and the dream's
come true;
And now it stands all beautiful and new,
And we, who've sacrificed and watched
it grow.
Are close to tears. We love it so.

We enter softly,
Slowly . . .
God in the midst of us. Our hearts
embrace
The pews, the pulpit; now this holy place,
door,
The candles, windows, carpets, carven
Is part of us. Forevermore.
They must have felt this
Reverence —

Abram beside his simple altar stone,
And countless worshipers the world has
known
Who built for Thee a house. With them
we cry,
"Holy! Holy! Holy! Lord most high!"
What shall our prayer be?

"Father,
O grant that all who come to worship
here
May feel Thee very close and very dear;
Make this the high resolve of every mind,
To walk with Thee. To serve mankind
"And send Thy spirit
Falling
Like cleansing fire, filling us with Thy
might,
Strengthening our hands, setting our feet
aright;
We dedicate our church, dear Lord,
and then,
We dedicate anew—our lives!
Amen."

—Margaret Chaplin Anderson

CONCERNING OUR CHURCH LIBRARY

Do you know that you have an excellent library of recent, readable books right at hand in the church Chapel? These books have been carefully selected to cover your needs in your church work and your personal life. There are programs and stories for all ages in the church school, including material on the special days as Easter, Thanksgiving, Christmas. There are books full of ideas and suggestions for devotional programs — as well as for your own personal devotional reading. A special effort has been made to achieve a rounded collection of books on the life of Christ. There are practical books, such as: The Church Usher's Manual; The Efficient Church Officer; Food for Fifty; Keene Party Book; Toastmaster's Handbook; Church School Teacher's Job.

Books such as these are more or less customary in church libraries, but here you have, in addition, a number of best sellers that are still in such demand that they are difficult to find in the public libraries. These are such books as: The Mature Mind; Peabody Sisters of Boston; White Witch Doctor; The High Calling; Prince of Egypt.

Do come in and make your selection. You may charge books for yourself by writing your name and address on the card in the back of the book, and leaving the card in the box kept in the cabinet with the books.

WHAT THE CHOIRS ARE DOING THIS YEAR

It seems that this year is going to be an industrious one for our choirs! As you well know, our five choirs provide opportunity for all age groups to participate in a singing program. The program for each choir is kept at the level of its appreciation age group with endeavor to cultivate a higher musical appreciation and deeper religious experience for each member.

The Cherub Choir is trying to learn more about the hymn treasures of the church, by memorizing the beautiful chorales that we have in our hymnal. The Boy's Choir and the Carol Choir are launching out into two part singing this year. They are quite thrilled about it and are going at their new anthems with a zeal which is a joy to behold. This year the Calvin Choir is putting on a program of their own in the form of a Christmas Cantata and are really enthused about it! The program for the Chancel Choir this year, is the biggest ever and will include four sacred concerts; one at Thanksgiving, one at Christmas, another at Easter, and finally, the annual spring festival in June. We want our choirs to become bigger and better each year, and there are openings in each choir now. If you would like to enlist your voice or your child's, please contact me at the church office now!

John C. Seagard

YOUTH BUDGET

The Stewardship Symbol of Westminster Fellowship is a double triangle. The sides of the outer triangle signify the broad meaning of Stewardship - TIME * ABILITIES * AND MATERIAL POSSESSIONS. The sides of the inner triangle represent the Youth Budget Plan and its motto - KNOW - CARE - SHARE. When children and young people know, - they care — When they care - they share — As they share - they grow spiritually.

This is the general philosophy of Youth Budget now being used in 2400 Y. B. churches. These churches gave over $350,000 to benevolence causes. This was over $100,000 more than children and young people in 6000 Non-Y. B. churches gave to benevolence causes.

The Youth Budget Plan Works - it produces results - it trains youth today for leadership and responsible stewardship in the church of tomorrow.

Our young people in First Church have approved and adopted a Youth Budget for 1952 totaling $2700.00. Two-thirds of their budget, $1800.00, will remain in First Church to carry on the youth program. The youth program consists of paying for a share of curriculum supplies, church maintenance, church building fund and youth activities. One-third of their budget, $900.00, will go for benevolences such as the Church's Four Boards.

THE WOMAN'S ASSOCIATION

The CHURCH BELL is again ringing your door-bell, and through it the WOMEN'S ASSOCIATION is inviting all the women of our Congregation to attend one of the eight Circles, and the Association meetings held once each month.

In these groups you will enjoy a fine Christian fellowship, and you will become better acquainted with the activities of the Association, - or, the work of the women of the Church.

Do you know that the women of our Church gave over $1700 for missions in the year 1950? And this year's record indicates that we will go beyond that figure for 1951! Have you had your share in this magnificent work?

If we all do our part we can increase our share in advancing the Gospel into further areas in the life of our world.

At our next ASSOCIATION meeting, Nov. 15, we will have as guest speaker Miss Edith Brookmiller, of the Chicago offices, and her theme will be "FOUNDATIONS OF LIFE."

We cordially invite all women to come, even those who may not yet be members of our Church.

Mrs. Edgar Shoff, President

A BUSINESSMAN'S OBSERVATIONS

A businessman in a southern city who writes for a number of newspapers an unusual and humorous column, states in his extravagant style—behind which there is a very sober suggestion—that if he allows his payments to the church to lapse for a month, he begins to question the sincerity of the people in the front pews; if he lets his envelopes get three months behind, he finds fault with the preaching; and if he so neglects his stewardship that he owes a whole year on his church pledge, he begins to suspect that the church is spending too much money, and that everything is wrong in proportion.

This brings to mind the saying of an old deacon: "Preaching that ain't paid for don't sound good." —First Congregational Bulletin, Saginaw.

PRESBYTERIAN LIFE

At a special meeting of the Board of Trustees it was unanimously voted to place the bi-weekly church magazine, PRESBYTERIAN LIFE, into the budget for the year 1952. This means that every member (by families) will receive this great periodical.

Do not fail to read every issue. It is good food for Presbyterians, and we should know about what our great Church is doing. TRUSTEES, WE THANK YOU!

THE CHURCH STAFF

Frederick W. Backemeyer, D.D.	Minister—2-1819
Carl Victor Brown, M.A.	Parish Minister—3-1300
Harry D. Collier	Youth Director—3-1300
John C. Seagard	Minister of Music—4-7803
Mrs. Hlimer I. Seaburg	Church and Pastor's Sec'y.—2-8258
John Laurie	Church Custodian— 9654
Walter Sickels	Ass't. Church Custodian—

CHURCH PHONE 2-3815

Special Attention!

ALL MEMBERS OF FIRST CHURCH

On these two Sundays we want to take a step forward in the enterprise known as "Our Church." We are calling these two Sundays - **"LOYALTY SUNDAYS,"** and we hope that every one of the 1655 members of this Church will be present. If you can't come, see that some member of your family will represent you. The Church is made up of individuals and families; on these Sundays we need to have the entire voting power of our membership present!

SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 11th! AND SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 18th!

HOW NEW MEMBERS JOIN THE CHURCH

We receive new members, usually, on the first Sunday of each month. They come in one of three ways - Confession of Faith, Letter from another Church, or Re-affirmation of Faith.

We cordially invite you to come if you do not have a "Church home." We require that persons desiring to unite with us make a sincere presentation of themselves as to their Christian Faith, pledge themselves to attend the worship services, take part in the varied activities as they can, and support the Church financially as they may be able. This latter item we leave to them and to their conscience, believing that all good Christians (and are there any other kind?) will desire to give of their means regularly to carry forward the work of the Church of Christ.

We cordially invite you to this fellowship of worship, of labor, and of love.

A NEW WAY OF LIVING

Day by Day I shall try to -

Live from the inside out, rather than from the outside in;
Be led of God, rather than presume to lead Him.
Become nobler than I now am, rather than get more than I now have.
Look upon all things not as ends in themselves, but as windows through which to see and know God.

COMING EVENTS

MONDAY, OCTOBER 29th
7:15 Boy Scout Meeting
7:30 Calvin Choir Rehearsal

TUESDAY, OCTOBER 30th
1:30 Women's Cabinet Meeting in the Lounge
7:30 Dart Ball - First Presbyterian at Grace Methodist

WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 31st
HALLOWE'EN
7:30 Chancel Choir Rehearsal
1:00 Alma Circle, in the Church Lounge

THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 1st
1:00 Mary Walton Circle, Mrs. R. W. Dickson, 345 Cleveland
1:00 Adelphian Circle, in the Church Lounge
1:00 Sorosis Circle, meeting in the Dining Room of the Church

FRIDAY, NOVEMBER 2nd
1:00 Philathea Circle meeting in Church Lounge
1:30 Gary Council of Church Women. World Community Day. Meeting at 1st Church of the Nazarine, 609 Madison Street
6:30 FAMILY NIGHT DINNER

SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 4th
7:30 Evening Service, Reformation Celebration, Rev. Wm. Meister, of Fort Wayne, speaking

MONDAY, NOVEMBER 5th
7:15 Boy Scout Meeting
7:30 Monthly Meeting of the Session in the Study
7:30 Calvin Choir Rehearsal

TUESDAY, NOVEMBER 6th
7:30 Dart Ball, 1st Presbyterian at 43rd Ave. Presbyterian

WEDNESDAY, NOVEMBER 7th
7:30 Chancel Choir Rehearsal

THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 8th
1:00 Ladies Aid Luncheon in Church Lounge

FRIDAY, NOVEMBER 9th
1:00 Philathea Circle Luncheon in Church Lounge
6:30 Beta Phi Dinner Meeting

SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 11th
11:00 LOYALTY SUNDAY - Sermon, "WHEN CHRIST COMES TO YOUR HOME"
7:30 Evening Service, Rev. Frank C. Martick, of South Bend, will be guest speaker on "CHRISTIAN SOCIAL ACTION."

MONDAY, NOVEMBER 12th
10:00 to 11:30 Ministerial Association Meeting in the Chapel
7:30 Boy Scouts
7:30 Calvin Choir Rehearsal
7:30 Monthly Meeting of the Board of Trustees

TUESDAY, NOVEMBER 13th
8:00 Pickard Class Meeting
8:00 Alpha Class Meeting in Church Lounge

WEDNESDAY, NOVEMBER 14th
7:30 Chancel Choir Rehearsal

THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 15th
1:00 ASSOCIATION LUNCHEON
6:30 World Service Dinner Meeting

FRIDAY, NOVEMBER 16th
7:30 Dart Ball: 1st Presbyterian at 1st Evan. Reformed

SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 18th
11:00 Second Loyalty Sunday - Every Member at Church Day!
7:30 Rendition of THE HOLY CITY, by the Chancel Choir

NEW MEMBERS

(Received Since Last Registered)

May 6th—Miss Betty Jakubik, 1341 Ellsworth Pl.; Mr. Edward Widener, 664 Carolina Street

June 3rd—Mr. Everett R. Dietz, 2331 W. 9th Ave.; Mrs. Pauline Dietz, 2331 W. 9th Ave.; Mrs Barbara Ferguson, (In the Service)

(THE COMMUNICANTS' CLASS)

June 10th—Claudette Marie Cook, Carol Lauurene Haltof, Robert L Burns, Allison Stevens, Robert Trutza, Patrick M. Rhodes, Barbara Ann Brodbeck, Patricia Elizabeth Cook, Carol Joyce Croll, Carol Anne Foreaker, Judith Ann McNew, Carol Jean Mullan, Hayden Robert Davies, John Stewart Gude, Charles Donald Henderson, Stephen West Malinka, Sterling Geesman Miller, James Homer Sackett, Robert Leroy Spence, Robert Lee Stacey.

July 8th—Mr. Charles S. Warner, 1733 W. 5th Ave.; Mr. Charles F. Wuenschel, 926 Home Ave., Hobart; Mrs. Betty Jane Wuenschel, 926 Home Ave., Hobart.

Sept. 9th—Mrs. Josephine M. Brown, 559 Monroe St.; Mrs. Jeanne Avison Collier, 559 Monroe St.; Mr. Paul Calvin Jackson, 552 Monroe Street.

Oct. 7th—Mr. Robert Jessup, 341 Jackson Street; Mrs. June Jessup, 341 Jackson Street.

INFANT BAPTISMS

(Since last Registered)

April 8th—Marilyn E. Goettge born Nov. 26, 1950, Daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Donald T. Goettge

May 13th—Charles Robert Hoftey, born Feb. 11, 1951, Son of Mr. and Mrs. Francis Hoftey; William Forest Lee, born May 8, 1950, Son of Mr. and Mrs. Richard G. Lee; Cathy Jo Goins, born April 18, 1949, Daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Alfred C. Goins; Lynette Ann Guffin, born July 9, 1950, Daughter of Mr. and Mrs. George H. Guffin; Thomas Ross Bain, born August 28, 1950, Son of Mr. and Mrs. L Ross Bain.

June 3rd—Peggy Jean Dietz, born Feb. 2, 1949, Daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Everett R. Dietz; David Clyde Dietz, born June 7, 1943, Son of Mr. and Mrs. Everett R. Dietz.

June 10th—William Allen Sydes, born June 21, 1950, Son of Mr. and Mrs. Leigh Sydes; Pamela Annette Mowry, born Oct. 8, 1950, Daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Harold Mowry; Cynthia Warren Pike, born Oct. 7, 1950, Daughter of Dr. and Mrs. Warren H. Pike.

July 8th—Linda Sue Keck, born Sept. 14, 1950, Daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Harold W. Keck; James Gerald Ricard, born Dec. 18, 1949, Son of Mr. and Mrs. James Ricard; Carol Anne Wise, born Mar. 21, 1951, Daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Daniel E. Wise.

Sept. 2nd—Billie Jo Martin, born Mar. 27, 1951, Daughter of Mr. and Mrs. William Martin; Susan Jean Williams, born Feb. 3, 1951, Daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Jos. R. Williams; Linda Ruth Newman, born Aug. 17, 1950, Daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Theo. Newman; Charles Peter Harrison, born Mar. 31, 1951, Son of Mr. and Mrs. Dean Harrison; Rhea Jeanne Appel, born June 19, 1951, Daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Kenneth F. Appel.

Oct. 14th—Linda Anne Morrone, born Oct. 16, 1950, and Beverly Lynn Morrone, born Aug. 26, 1948, Daughters of Mr. and Mrs. Nicholas Morrone; Gregory George Crawford, born July 26, 1951, Son of Mr. and Mrs. George Crawford; Janet Lynn Kasonovich, born July 20, 1951, Daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Emil Kasonovich; Kenneth John Mitseff, born Mar. 15, 1951, Son of Mr. and Mrs. John Mitseff; James Robert Heist, born Feb. 12, 1949, Son of Mr. and Mrs. Daniel Heist; Daniel James Heist, born June 3, 1951, Son of Mr. and Mrs. Robert D. Heist.